


TADCASTER
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR 1895.

SELBY :
W. H. SPENCER, PRINTER, BOOKSELLER, &c.
1896.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30176797>

TADCASTER

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1895

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|--------|
| POPULATION AT CENSUS, 1891 | ... | ... | 25,977 |
| ESTIMATED POPULATION IN 1895 | ... | ... | 27,130 |
| AREA OF DISTRICT IN ACRES | ... | ... | 72,865 |

REGISTRATION SUB-DISTRICTS :—

ESTIMATED POPULATION.

| | | | 1895. | | AREA. |
|------------------|-----|-----|--------|-----|--------|
| ABERFORD | ... | ... | 16,836 | ... | 29,859 |
| APPLETON ROEBUCK | ... | ... | 5,568 | ... | 25,038 |
| TADCASTER | ... | ... | 4,726 | ... | 17,968 |

TO THE TADCASTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

It is again my duty to present this Annual Report upon the health of the population and the sanitary work carried out in the districts during 1895.

There has been no special movement of population in any part to affect greatly the numbers, and I have estimated that the population of the whole district at 27,130 to the middle of last year.

Birth and Death
Rates.

The births registered were 924, males 440, and females 484. The birth rate for the year was 34 per 1,000, that is near to the average of the previous ten years.

In the Aberford sub-district the birth-rate was 35·7 per 100.

| | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|---|---|---|------|---|
| „ | Tadcaster | „ | „ | „ | 34·7 | „ |
| „ | Appleton | „ | „ | „ | 28·4 | „ |

In the parishes of Allerton and Kippax the birth-rate was 50 per 1,000; in Micklefield and Great Preston, 43 and 41; in Tadcaster, 33·6; and in Garforth, 30·6.

469 deaths were registered last year; males, 239; females, 230. The death-rate was 17·3 per 1,000, and is lower than the average rate, which was 18·0, for the previous ten years.

After distributing the deaths at the Workhouse to the different parishes from which the inmates had come, I find that,

in the Appleton sub-districts the death-rate was 15·6.

| | | | | | |
|---|-----------|---|---|---|-------|
| „ | Tadcaster | „ | „ | „ | 15·8. |
| „ | Aberford | „ | „ | „ | 18·0. |

In Kippax the death-rate was 24, in Allerton 20, in both townships there were many deaths among children from diarrhæa and diseases of the lungs.

Deaths
from Zymotic
Diseases.

The favourable death returns for last year are partly accounted for by a lessened number of deaths from cases of infectious disease. In what is termed the zymotic group, there were 40 deaths.

24 of these were due to diarrhœa mainly among infants.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|-------------------|
| 5 | „ | „ | scarlet fever. |
| 4 | „ | „ | diphtheria. |
| 2 | „ | „ | enteric fever. |
| 2 | „ | „ | continued fever. |
| 2 | „ | „ | membranous croup. |
| 1 | „ | „ | whooping cough. |

The death-rate was only 1·4 per 1,000, which is a rate exceptionally low, and yet only three-eighths of that number were caused by infectious diseases, which are notified.

In the Appleton sub-districts the deaths equalled 2 per 1,000

| | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|---|---|---|-----|---|
| „ | Aberford | „ | „ | „ | 1·5 | „ |
| „ | Tadcaster | „ | „ | „ | 1·2 | „ |

In South Milford this rate was 4·5; in Allerton, 3·7; in Kippax, Garforth, and Swillington it was just over 2.

Deaths from
Diseases of the
Lungs.

26 deaths were registered from phthisis or consumption (equal to 0·9 per 1,000), and 63 from other diseases of the lungs, such as bronchitis, pneumonia, &c. The total number, 89, were equal to a death-rate of 3·2 per 1,000, which was also under the average, viz., 4·0, for previous years. The rate from these deaths was almost alike in each of the sub-districts.

23 deaths were registered on a certificate from the Coroner. 18 of these resulted from accidents, of which four were cases of drowning and five were due to ordinary disease. No death was returned as uncertified throughout the districts.

When we examine the ages at death during the year it is found that infants under one year died in the proportion of 135 for every 1,000 births registered during the same year.

Deaths at
different ages.

In the Tadcaster sub-districts the proportion was only 116 per 1,000 births.

In the Aberford sub-districts the proportion was 135 per 1,000

„ Appleton „ „ „ 151 „

In Kippax it was 190; South Milford, 181; Tadcaster, 164; Sherburn, 148; Allerton and Swillington, 136.

Among an older group we find that 38 per cent. of the deaths during the year were among children under 5 years of age.

Again the rate in the Tadcaster sub-districts was lowest, as it was only 26 per cent.

In the Appleton sub-districts it was 34 per cent.

„ Aberford „ „ 43 „

It must be well-known that the proportion of the population which are under 5 years of age is very much less than one-fourth, and yet in the Aberford sub-districts nearly one half of all the deaths for the year occurred in that small group. The fact carries with it the proof that either the children are living under very unfavourable sanitary conditions, or that they may have inherited a weakened constitution, or that when taken ill medical aid is not called in sufficiently early to give the sufferer a chance of recovering.

I can vouch for the fact that the whole sanitary conditions are continually improving throughout the districts, and specially in matters which affect the young, the remedy is therefore one which must be used at the houses, and it is surely urgent, to reduce this waste of young lives if greater care and attention at their homes can assist in this work.

In the whole district one-fourth of the deaths were among those who had survived to the age of 65 years and over.

In the Appleton and Tadcaster sub-districts there were, considering the occupations of the people, a larger share, viz., 28 per cent., while in the Aberford districts there were 22 per cent.

During 1895, 133 notifications of cases of infectious disease were received.

Cases of
Infectious
Disease notified.

| | | |
|----|-------------------|-------------------|
| 71 | reported cases of | scarlet fever. |
| 12 | „ „ | enteric fever. |
| 7 | „ „ | continued fever. |
| 2 | „ „ | puerperal fever. |
| 20 | „ „ | diphtheria. |
| 3 | „ „ | membranous croup. |
| 18 | „ „ | erysipelas. |

With the exception of diphtheria there has been a lessened number of these notifiable diseases.

Scarlet Fever.

Among the 71 cases of scarlet fever there were 5 deaths, which is equal to 7 per cent. of the persons attacked; that rate is higher than the average of the last 2 years. 60 of the cases occurred in the parishes of Garforth and Great Preston; both outbreaks were due to infection brought into the district, and the disease rapidly spread before medical aid was called in. Some time was also lost in notifying the cases, and in February I reported that 17 cases had been notified in 7 houses. In scarcely one of these was isolation of the infected person being carried out, so as to hope for the non-spread of the disease. Happily, many of the parents were induced to allow the sufferers to be removed to the hospital. 25 cases were treated there from January to May, and no fresh cases occurred at Garforth until December.

In October a similar outbreak occurred at Bower's Rows, Great Preston; the patients were in crowded houses, and no isolation was even attempted. 10 were removed, after strong persuasion, and for a time no fresh cases were reported. On the re-appearance of the infection in December the arrangements at the hospital did not allow of patients being admitted, and the disease spread, but only to a slight extent, for as soon as the new caretakers were settled, the cases of fever were admitted, and the disease proved to be more easily controlled. The clean wards of the hospital, with special nursing and every suitable food, offer the conditions where patients have every hope of a quick and safe recovery. Only one of the 39 patients treated there died, the per centage of deaths among those ill was 2.5, while among the 32 patients treated at their own houses there were 4 deaths, or 12 per cent.; the hospital treatment is therefore an immense help, not only in preventing infection spreading, but also in lessening the death-rate among those attacked. A few cases occurred among the children at the Workhouse when there were no cases of the disease in Tadcaster. They were isolated in the wards in the grounds and the infection did not spread.

Enteric Fever.

Among the twelve cases of enteric fever there were two deaths, equal to 16 per cent. of those attacked. 3 of these were workers in Leeds, and their history shewed that their illness had been contracted where they worked; 3 others were second cases in the same family, or infected through previous cases near to. No clear history could be obtained of how the disease originated; in others, probably 2 were not cases of actual enteric fever. It is satisfactory to note that in 6 parishes there was only one case.

In the 3 parishes of Allerton, Kippax, and Great Preston 7 cases were reported as continued fever. With one exception they were young children. The state of fever did not develop into any particular type, and there were no second case at any of the houses.

With one exception the 20 cases of diphtheria occurred in South Milford, and 2 of the 3 cases of membranous croup were also reported from there. 6 deaths were registered during the year, but one was of a case notified in 1894, and took place on the 1st January, 1895. There were therefore 5 deaths among the 23 cases, *i.e.*, nearly 22 per cent. among those ill.

Diphtheria.

This disease—for membranous croup is very closely related to diphtheria—was very prevalent in South Milford in December of 1894, and continued to spread during the first three months of last year. I gave some details of the cases during these months in a special report sent to the Local Government Board. During April and May no case was reported, but towards the end of June 2 were notified in different parts of the village. One of these was in a group of houses where a large proportion of the cases had broken out before. There was no history of a fresh introduction of the infection, and, unless it had remained inactive in the sewer close to the house (that sewer was afterwards shown not to be self-cleansing), or that the patient had drunk it with the well water used, there was no means of explaining the re-appearance of the disease. After analysing that water it was found to be so polluted as to be unsafe to drink. I saw the well opened, it was situated within 10 feet of a street cesspool which had received the washings from several infected houses. The sides of the well were loose, broken limestone, which was in several places nearly black through leaks from the surrounding ground. The supply was stopped and the street cesspool was also removed. No case occurred afterwards among families who had previously used the water. A better supply was obtained. The other case in June had no connection with the group, but occurred at a house where sanitary matters were in almost every way very bad. 5 cases followed in the near neighbourhood, in the last (2 in one house) there was good evidence of personal infection through one previously visiting the infected houses. There has been no fatal case since March, and no new case since the early part of November. In one house there were 4 cases, and in two houses a second case occurred. Whether it was due to the difficulty of clearly distinguishing the disease, 3 of the cases were not notified until after death.

2 cases of anthrax disease among cattle were reported to me through the Superintendants of Police. This is well known to be a disease easily communicated and very fatal to men and animals. The responsibility of dealing with the outbreak is entirely in the hands of the veterinary surgeons and the police, but notice of such cases has to be sent to the Medical Officer of Health. The late M. Pasteur gives some practical advice in this matter, based upon his own experiments, which is deserving of attention. He said, “when animals which had died from anthrax were buried in certain soils the splenic germs lived on,

Anthrax.

and the earth worms brought them to the surface in their castings and dissemination recommenced. Therefore, he said, we should never bury animals in fields intended for cultivation for forage or for sheep pasture. When it is possible a sandy soil should be chosen for the purpose, or any poor calcareous soil, in fact a soil not suited to the existence of earth worms."

SANITARY WORK.

Water supplies. It was found necessary to do something to improve the supply of water to Garforth through the want of pressure. The Water Works Committee for the districts now supplied with water from Wakefield through Castleford, decided to provide steam power to assist in keeping the reservoir well supplied at all times. For that purpose a small engine and pumps were put down at Allerton with very satisfactory results. The only extension of the water mains last year was to supply the new houses in course of erection near Bower's Row. Throughout the districts supplied 1,596 houses now use the water. 62 were new consumers last year.

The supply for Crossgates and Manston was previously obtained from the Leeds supply, through Seacroft, but complaints were frequently made of great scarcity through insufficient pressure. A new arrangement has been made and a satisfactory supply now obtained also of Leeds water, through the Hunslet Rural District Council. A new and larger main has been laid from Whitkirk to the railway bridge at Crossgates. The cost, £150, did not increase the rates in that district.

The water complained of at New Micklefield last year was greatly improved by the Colliery Company providing filters, through which the water passed before it is distributed. No complaints were made to me of the water in that district last year.

The water supply for East and West Tadcaster has been very carefully considered. The existing supply from 50 wells was analysed last year. A summary of the results was given in November last. It shewed that there was a fair proportion which afforded wholesome water, while many were unusable from polluting matters which had soaked into the wells. A number of other wells yielded water which was not in all respects satisfactory. These could only be classed as doubtful supplies. The whole question is now being considered with the advice of an eminent engineer.

The water supply from wells in several parishes was examined and reported upon. Partly resulting from these inquiries 8 new wells have been sunk, and 30 wells cleansed, deepened, and repaired.

SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The District Council have called in the assistance of the same Engineer, who is to advise upon the water supply for East and West Tadcaster to also report upon the existing sewers and means of sewage disposal in these districts. Last year a number of openings from the streets into the sewers were provided with more efficient traps.

On account of complaints of the overflow from the tanks in which the sewage is collected at Aberford, Mr. Cox, Borough Engineer for Bradford, was called in to examine the existing drainage system. To meet these complaints a more frequent emptying of the sewage was carried out during the rest of the year, and additional ventilators provided at his suggestion. This work still leaves a portion of the village undrained, and in the near future it will be very desirable to re-consider the more complete and satisfactory method of dealing with the whole of the sewage.

In Allerton village nearly 700 yards of the main sewer and its outlet were thoroughly cleansed out, and additional gullies provided in the streets. Part also of the sewers between the bridges had to be cleansed out having become silted up after that district was flooded from the river Aire and Calder.

The purification of the sewage at Crossgates has been satisfactorily managed last year, and the filters were put into a thorough state of repair. The purification of the sewage of Garforth has been carried out in 1895 by means of peat placed in long tanks. Considerable money has been spent during the year in order to give the system a fair trial, but it is too soon yet to report upon the results. A very satisfactory effluent can be produced when the works are regularly attended to.

That regular supervision is essential if any of our sewage grounds are to perform the work for which they were first acquired and laid out, and the complaints that have been made as to those at Sherburn and at Kippax were due to the lack of that daily supervision which the purification of sewage on land especially needs.

The ground at Kippax has been let to a new tenant. The filters by which the sewage from New Micklefield is treated received better attention last year, and fewer complaints were made of unpurified sewage in the stream below.

The main sewer in Saxton village—750 yards long—has been cleaned throughout and gullies fixed.

The sewer in Low Street, South Milford, was ordered to be examined when the cases of diphtheria were prevalent, a portion of it was found not in good order. It was suggested that the defective portion should be re-laid, but it was decided only to cleanse it out.

In Robinson Lane, Kippax, the sewer was also found in an unsatisfactory state and had to be cleaned out for a distance of 200 yards. The sewage in this part of the village is not sufficiently treated. In another part of Kippax recently built up the dealing with the sewage in a cesspool has caused many complaints. To meet this difficulty for a time the contractor for the scavenging of the ashpits now cleans out that cesspool at short intervals. The same difficulties occur whenever the sewage of a number of houses is stored in cesspools and requires frequent emptying in all conditions of weather.

At Great Preston also the same difficulty is met with in getting the receiving tank regularly cleaned out.

The hamlet of Scholes has at present a rather defective condition of the sewers. A scheme prepared by Mr. Denham to provide efficient sewers and means for dealing with the sewage has been adjourned for the present, at the suggestion of a Parish Meeting, and the old sewers are to be repaired.

In the districts of East and West Tadcaster, Kippax, and Sherburn the District Council employs persons for systematically flushing the sewers. The Sherburn Parish Council have undertaken to regularly clean out the ponds there which have previously been complained of.

The requirements of other parishes in the matter of better means of drainage have also been in some degree provided for, and following upon that work a corresponding improvement has been made of private drains and better means of cutting off such drains from the sewers made.

Scavenging.

The refuse from ashpits, &c., is now removed from the parishes of Kippax and Allerton by contract, and the work was done last year in a satisfactory manner. The lead in this matter shown by these townships would be followed with great advantage to the communities at Crossgates, Garforth, and Tadcaster. With so many people living in the two first, knowing how such work is done in Leeds, and having few facilities for getting the cleansing done regularly, someone responsible for carrying it out at regular times is a distinct help in improving the health of the district. Many living in Tadcaster find a difficulty in having the cleansing done even when they wish it.

Plans passed.

Plans for 45 new houses and for 51 other buildings were passed last year. The proposal to obtain urban powers for the whole rural district was not agreed to by the District Council. Notices were served under the Housing of the Working Classes' Act as to 14 occupied houses. Considerable improvements were carried out in several of these, and a closing order had to be obtained from the justices for 3. We repeatedly find cases of serious overcrowding through large families in houses with very insufficient bedrooms. The air of such rooms must be injurious to everyone inhabiting them, but especially to the children.

Unhealthy
Dwellings.

The work during the year included many other matters than those I have been summarising, but an interesting table prepared by Mr. Denham gives full details. The whole gives evidence I think of useful work done, and is associated with a satisfactory return in most cases of lessened sickness and the deaths during the year.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. MITCHELL WILSON, M.D.,

Dip. Public Health, Cambs.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

TADCASTER, 27th Jan., 1896.

TABLE SHEWING PARTICULARS OF NUISANCES ABATED AND SANITARY
WORK DONE DURING 1895.

| | |
|---|-------|
| Number of inspections made during the year—nuisances... | 1,193 |
| Number of Inspections of New Buildings ... | 195 |
| " " Cow Sheds ... | 132 |
| " " Lodging Houses by night and day | 29 |
| " " Slaughter Houses ... | 35 |
| Nuisances found requiring abating... | 480 |
| Notices served by Inspector ... | 304 |
| Number of Notices served from the Rural Sanitary Authority... | 120 |
| New Drains laid ... yards | 2,336 |
| House Drains disconnected ... | 53 |
| New Trapped Gullies provided and Fixed... | 219 |
| Old do. do. cleansed and repaired ... | 140 |
| Old Drains cleansed and repaired ... yards | 3,068 |
| Open Drains and Water Courses cleansed ... yards | 3,314 |
| New Privies, Ashpits, and Earth Closets built ... | 47 |
| Old do. do. repaired ... | 63 |
| Do. do. do. removed ... | 34 |
| New Water Closets and old ones repaired and ventilated... | 7 |
| Privies and Ashpits cleansed out after notice ... | 221 |
| Cesspools, new ... | 11 |
| Do. old, cleansed or removed... | 16 |
| Houses whitewashed and cleansed ... | 21 |
| Do. disinfected after Zymotic Disease ... | 80 |
| Do. overcrowding abated ... | 9 |
| Do. repaired and ventilated ... | 38 |
| Do. closed as unfit for occupation ... | 13 |
| Pigstyes removed from against dwelling houses ... | 20 |
| Manure heaps removed, found to be a nuisance ... | 9 |
| New Wells sunk and new Pumps fixed ... | 8 |
| Wells cleansed and Pumps repaired ... | 31 |
| Rain Water Tanks made and repaired ... | 3 |
| Cowsheds and Dairies on the Register ... | 144 |
| Do. do. altered ... | 5 |
| Do. do. whitewashed after notice ... | 11 |
| Slaughter Houses on the Register ... | 9 |
| Plans passed for New Houses ... | 93 |
| Plans passed for other buildings and new street ... | 51 |
| New Houses and other buildings occupied... | 74 |
| Canal Boats inspected ... | 30 |
| Do. requiring painting, cleaning, or repairs ... | 4 |
| Do. without registration certificate ... | 18 |
| Do. without name plate or other defects ... | 2 |
| Urinals provided for licensed houses ... | 3 |
| Other Nuisances abated ... | 60 |

(A)

TABLE I.

TABLE OF DEATHS during the year 1895, in the Rural Sanitary District of Tadcaster, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

| NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; pub- lic Institutions being shown as separate locali- ties. | Mortality from all causes at subjoined ages. | | | | | | | (i) < |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

TABLE II.

TABLE of POPULATION, BIRTHS, and of NEW CASES of INFECTIOUS SICKNESS coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1895, in the Rural Sanitary District of Tadcaster; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

| NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities. | Population at all ages. | | Registered Births. | Aged under 5 or over 5. | New Cases of Sickness in each Locality coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health. | | | | | | | | | | | *Cases Removed. | |
|--|-------------------------|--------|--------------------|-------------------------|--|-------------|-------------|-------------------|---------|---------------------|------------|------------|----------|-------------|----|-----------------|-------|
| | Census, 1891. | 1895 | | | Small-pox. | Scarlatina. | Diphtheria. | Membranous Croup. | Fever. | | | | Cholera. | Erysipelas. | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | Typhus. | Enteric or Typhoid. | Continued. | Relapsing. | | | | | |
| ABERFORD... .. <i>(Sub-registration district)</i> | 15,920 | 16,836 | 602 | Under 5 upwards | ..... | 41 | ..... | 1 | ..... | 8 | 4 | ..... | 1 | ..... | 6 | 17 | ..... |
| TADCASTER (H) <i>(Sub-registration district)</i> | 4,553 | 4,726 | 164 | Under 5 upwards | ..... | 4 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 9 | ..... | ..... |
| APPLETON ROEBUCK <i>(Sub-registration district)</i> | 5,504 | 5,568 | 158 | Under 5 upwards | ..... | ..... | 5 | 2 | ..... | 2 | ..... | ..... | 1 | ..... | 4 | ..... | ..... |
| TOTALS | 25,977 | 27,130 | 924 | Under 5 upwards | ..... | 41 | 5 | 3 | ..... | 11 | 4 | ..... | 2 | ..... | 19 | 17 | ..... |
|  |  |  |  |  | ..... | 30 | 15 | ..... | ..... | 1 | 3 | ..... |  | ..... |  | 22 | 1 |

No case originated at any Public Institution.

Notification of Infectious Disease is compulsory in the District since 1st December, 1890. Hospital provided in the parish of Garforth.

*Number of such Cases Removed from their Homes in the several Localities for Treatment in Isolation Hospital.

TABLE III.

STATISTICS FOR THE RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT AND THE SUB-REGISTRATION DISTRICTS, 1895.

| UNION AND SUB-DISTRICTS. | Population in 1895. | RATE PER 1,000 OF THE POPULATION. | | | | Deaths under 1 to every 1,000 Births Registered. |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| | | Births. | Deaths. | From Zymotic Diseases. | From Respiratory Diseases. | |
| Rural Sanitary District ... | 27,130 | 34.0 | 17.2 | 1.4 | 3.3 | 139 |
| Aberford | 16,836 | 35.7 | 18.0 | 1.6 | 3.8 | 127 |
| Appleton Roebuck | 5,568 | 28.4 | 14.1 | 1.4 | 2.3 | 132 |
| Tadcaster | 4,726 | 34.7 | 15.8 | 0.6 | 3.1 | 128 |

TABLE IV.
BIRTH AND DEATH RATE IN THE LARGEST TOWNSHIPS DURING 1895.

| PARISHES. | ESTIMATED POPULATION 1895. | RATES PER 1000 OF THE AVERAGE POPULATION. | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|---------|----------------------|--------------------------|---|
| | | Births. | Deaths. | Zymotic Diseases. | Respiratory Diseases. | Deaths under 1 year per 1000 Births. |
| Allerton-Bywater, Township of | 2485 | 51.7 | 20.3 | 3.7 | 4.1 | 137 |
| Barwick, " | 2503 | 22.4 | 15.0 | 0.3 | 2.7 | 103 |
| Garforth, " | 2705 | 30.6 | 16.2 | 2.2 | 2.5 | 108 |
| Kippax, " | 2884 | 50.9 | 24.2 | 2.4 | 6.5 | 190 |
| Micklefield " | 1228 | 43.1 | 19.5 | 0.0 | 5.7 | 113 |
| Great and Little Preston , | 1656 | 41.0 | 15.7 | 0.6 | 1.8 | 130 |
| Sherburn " | 1883 | 24.9 | 14.8 | 1.0 | 2.6 | 148 |
| South Milford " | 1104 | 29.8 | 13.5 | 4.5 | 1.8 | 181 |
| Tadcaster " | 2880 | 33.6 | 18.7 | 0.6 | 4.5 | 164 |
| Swillington " | 912 | 24.1 | 19.7 | 2.1 | 4.3 | 136 |